

NUMBER SENSE

There are lots of ways to help your child with number skills using simple games around the house. While you are doing chores or your child is playing with toys help your child learn in the following ways:

- Ask your child to help you sort clothes to be washed. Count together the number of colored socks and the number of white socks. Which is more?
- Have your child help set the table. Count how many forks and spoons to be put by each place.
- Ask your child to sort her toys by size or shape and count together how many of each.

Make a simple number game (for ages 3 to 5): Write the numbers 1 to 10 on 3 x 5 cards. Trace circles with a coin or place stickers on each card to match the number written on each card. Ask your child to place something small, such as a bean, on each circle:



- Have your child place a bean on each circle and count out loud together.
- Show your child that the number written on the card matches the number of beans.
- Help your child put the cards in number order.

Play Number Rummy (for ages 4 and up). Number a set of cards from 1-26. With a group of 3 or 4 children, give 5 cards to each child. The other cards are placed in the center of the table, top card face up. The children draw and discard one card at a time. The object is to get 5 numbers in order such as "4,5,6,7,8." (*From Kids Play by Dena Spanos-Hawkey*).

For school-age children:

- A small allowance will help your children learn about money. Letting them pay for things will help them learn about what things cost.
- When you go grocery shopping ask your child to help you figure out the cost of fruits or vegetables, or how much you save by buying something on sale.